

No. 489, S.]

[Published August 9, 1951.]

CHAPTER 697.

AN ACT to create 20.015 (1m) of the statutes, relating to a study of the problems of motor vehicle accidents by the legislative council and ██████████

The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. The continually increasing number of motor vehicles being operated on the highways of this state by residents and by nonresidents has so increased the exposure to accidents as to create a serious problem. Two aspects of the problem require exhaustive study to determine whether existing legislation properly protects the interests of the people of the state. The first has to do with the adequacy of present statutes relating to highway safety, licensing of drivers and the condition of motor vehicles. The second relates to the question of whether existing legislation relating to safety responsibility and financial responsibility is producing a sufficient increase in the proportion of drivers able to prove financial responsibility so as to indicate that the hardships incident to the financially irresponsible driver are in the process of alleviation.

SECTION 2. The legislative committee herein created is directed to conduct a complete study of the problems arising from motor vehicle accidents and develop such information as will enable the legislature to take appropriate action. Such a study should give consideration to (a) methods of reducing accidents with special emphasis upon the laws of this state and comparable laws of other states regarding:

1. highway safety,
2. licensing of drivers,
3. condition of motor vehicles,
4. accident frequency,
5. provisions for enforcement;

(b) adequacy of safety responsibility and financial responsibility laws with special emphasis upon the following:

1. Their effectiveness in eliminating the financially irresponsible driver
2. The extent of insurance coverage
3. Accidents by uninsured drivers who are financially responsible
4. License revocations
5. Financial responsibility of nonresident drivers
6. Operation of the Massachusetts Compulsory Insurance Law
7. The studies and investigations of the problem by other states
8. Other methods of meeting the problem.

SECTION 3. There is created a legislative committee to direct and conduct the study. The committee shall consist of 3 senators and 5 assemblymen to be appointed as are standing committees in their respective houses, and 3 citizens at large to be appointed by the legislative council, with a knowledge of and an interest in the problems of motor vehicle accidents. The committee shall select a project director who shall devote at least half of his time to this job and who shall receive such compensation for his services as the committee shall determine. The committee shall report to the legislative council on or before December 1, 1952. Members of the committee shall receive no compensation for their services, but shall be reimbursed for their actual and necessary expenses incurred in carrying out their duties.

SECTION 4. The commissioner of the motor vehicle department and the commissioner of insurance are directed to co-operate in the making of this study and to provide such available information as may be requested by the project director.

~~Section 3 20,000 (10) of the statute is revised to read:~~
~~20,000 (10) Shall be added to section 3 (a) There is appropriated from~~
~~the state highway fund annually for the years beginning July 1, 1951 and July 1, 1952~~
~~in 20,000 to the committee created by chapter 69, laws of 1950 (PL 1950 No. 49) for~~
~~the conduct of a study of motor vehicle accidents and preparation of a report thereon~~
~~(b) Payments from this appropriation for reimbursement of expenses and compensation~~
~~for services shall be made by vouchers signed by the chairman and members of the~~
~~committee~~

VETOED

Approved in part and vetoed in part, July 20, 1951.